GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:763
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Elephant-Train Collisions
Singh Shri Parvesh Sahib

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of collisions of elephants with trains in the past two years and if so, the details thereof including the casualties resulting from the same;
(b) the details of the steps taken by the Ministry to reduce the number of such incidents;
(c) the efforts made by the Government to reduce animal human conflict during the said period;
(d) whether any report has been received regarding constructions, new or previously existing, or environmental clearances granted by the Ministry around the elephant corridors of late; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE):

(a) Yes Sir, reports of collisions of elephants with trains are received from states, from time to time. Details of elephant deaths due to collision with train are given in Annexure.

(b) The Government has taken the following measures, to minimise accidental deaths of elephants due to train hits:

(i) Identification of vulnerable sections of railway tracks.
(ii) Regular patrolling of vulnerable stretches of railway tracks by frontline forest staff and wildlife watchers.
(iii) Forming co-ordination committees of officers of Railways and SFDs. Exchange of emails/telephone numbers of concerned officers.
(iv) Sending letters, emails, SMS messages regarding presence of elephants near vulnerable railway tracks.
(v) Clearing of vegetation along railway tracks to allow unhindered and clear view of train drivers.
(vi) Providing signages at suitable points to alert train drivers about elephant presence.
(vii) Avoid dumping of food waste along railway track to avoid unnecessary congregation of elephants and other wild animals near railway track.
(viii) Moderating slopes for elevated sections of railway tracks so that elephants can negotiate these easily.
(ix) To provide under pass/over pass at selected places for safe passage of elephants.
(x) Regulation of train speed from sunset to sunrise in vulnerable stretches.
(xi) Sensitisation of staff of SFDs, Railways and local people.
(xii) In order to develop specific strategies and for better coordination committees have been constituted between Zonal Railway Offices and State Forest Departments.

(c) Steps undertaken by the Government to reduce human animal conflicts are given below:
(i) Financial and technical assistance is provided to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', augmenting their efforts for management of wildlife and their habitats.
(ii) Improvement of Protected Areas, Tiger Reserves and Elephant Reserves.
(iii) Regular and extensive patrolling of forest areas and anti poaching measures by frontline filed staff of the State Forest Departments.
(iv) Trainings and awareness camps are organised regularly for local people for conservation of wildlife.
(v) Local communities are organised into Joint Forest Management Committees/Eco-development Committees for protection of wildlife habitat, including elephant corridors.
(vi) Habitat improvement and eco-restoration is taken up in critical areas of tiger reserve, elephant reserves and corridors.

(d) & (e) While considering cases for clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 falling in Elephant Corridors and Elephant Reserves, the matter is dealt as per rules and as per recommendations of Chief Wildlife Wardens of concerned States/UTs.

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